

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085952
ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:RDJOHNSON:DHT
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:RCBARKLEY
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EUR/CE AND OC ONLY
-----101152 041552Z /53

R 041330Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO LIVE OAK SHAPE BELGIUM
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STATE 085952

LIVE OAK MESSAGE (UNCLASSIFIED) SHLO 165

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, WB

SUBJECT: EXERCISE PASSING THROUGH ROMAN THIRTY FOUR

LAST SEEK, I PASSED ALONG MERLE LYNCH'S STORY ABOUT A
LETTER THAT REACHED HIM WHEN, AS A YOUNG THIRD-
CLASS NAVY RADIOMAN, HE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM
THE PHILIPPINES TO SHANGHAI.

THE LETTER REACHED LYNCH PROMPTLY ALTHOUGH ITS
ENTIRE ADDRESS HAD BEEN, "LEENCH, RADIOMAN THREE PIECE,
MAYBE YOU TRY SHANGHAI."

FOR ELGIN A. MCLAY, LYNCH'S STORY EVOKED A MEMORY.
IN 1949, AFTER WORKING FOR THE ARMY ENGINEERS ON
OKINAWA, MCLAY WAS TRANSFERRED TO TAKAMATSU, A CITY
ON THE ISLAND OF SHIKOKU, IN JAPAN. ELGIN HAD SOME
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PAY COMING, HE SAYS, "SO OF COURSE I LEFT A VERY
EXPLICIT FORWARDING ADDRESS."

MORE THAN TWO MONTHS PASSED BEFORE ELGIN'S PAYCHECK
ARRIVED "IN A DIRTY, BATTERED ENVELOP THAT BORE A
LOT OF CROSSED-OFF FORWARDING ADDRESSES, POSTMARKS
AND NOTATIONS."

THE MOST RECENT OF THE NOTATIONS INDICATED THAT
SOMEBODY IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS--NOT SHIKOKU, JAPAN--
HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIND A TAKAMATSU STREET IN THE
WINDY CITY.

WELL, YOU CAN'T WIN EM ALL. ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE NOT
AS WELL KNOWN AS RADIOMAN THREE PIECE LEENCH.

BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING ILLOGICAL IDIOMS
RECENTLY, LEWIS E. HAWKINS OF BETHESDA WAS MOVED TO
SUGGEST THAT SEVERAL SPORTS TERMS ARE ALSO ILLOGICAL.
BASEBALL'S "HIT-AND-RUN" PLAY IS A GOOD EXAMPLE.
A BASERUNNER "GOES" WITH THE PITCH, WHICH THE BATTER
LATER ATTEMPTS TO HIT. SO THE LOGICAL WORDING WOULD BE
"RUN-AND-HIT" INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

"ANOTHER SPORTS SOLECISM ALMOST UNIVERSALLY EMPLOYEED,"
SAYS HAWKINS, "IS THE 'ON-SIDE KICK' IN FOOTBALL. EVERY
KICKOFF IS AN ON-SIDE KICK. THE VERY SHORT KICKOFF,
WHICH SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY ONE EVER DESCRIBED AS
'ON-SIDE,' IS JUST A DESPERATION PLOY INTENDED TO
MAXIMIZE THE KICKING TEAM'S CHANCE TO REGAIN THE
FREE BALL PRODUCED BY EVERY KICKOFF, LONG OR
SHORT. THE SHORT KICK IS NO MORE ON-SIDE THAN THE
ONE THAT SAILS INTO THE END ZONE."
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I TOOK HAWKINS' LETTER TO SPORTS COPY EDITOR DAN
MCCOUBREY, TO SPORTS SLOT MAN (CHIEF COPY EDITOR)
BOB WILLIAMS, AND TO SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER DICK
DARCEY. ALL THREE AGREED THAT HAWKINS IS RIGHT.
AND PLEASE NOTE THAT I DIDN'T CHANGE HIS NAME TO
DAWKINS. ID DON'T LEARN FAST, BUT I LEARN.

"IT IS POSSIBLE TO OWN TOO MUCH," COUNSELS HERM
ALBRIGHT. "A MAN WITH ONE WATCH KNOWS WHAT
TIME IT IS. A MAN WITH TWO WATCHES IS NEVER SURE."

SWEEPING HONORS AT THE BRITISH ACADEMY AWARDS LAST
NIGHT WAS WOODY ALLEN'S "ANNIE HALL," WHICH TOOK
AWARDS FOR BEST FILM, BEST DIRECTION AND BEST
ACTRESS, DIANE KEATON.

THE BEST ACTOR AWARD WENT POSTHUMOUSLY TO BRITISH
STAR PETER FINCH FOR HIS PERFORMANCE IN "NETWORK."

EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM, WHO SPLIT HIS ABDOMINAL MUSCLES
WHILE PREACHING IN THE PHILIPPINES HEAT LAST YEAR,

SA E WILL NEED MAJOR SURGERY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE.
GRAHAM SAID THE INJURY HAS CAUSED DISCOMFORT BUT NOT
GREAT PAIN AND HE STILL PLANS TO CONTINUE A BUSY
SCHEDULE OF CRUSADES IN THE UNITED EX EX EX VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIVE OAK, MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNICATION LINES, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE085952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RDJOHNSON:DHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780145-0435
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780494/aaaadbwm.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd1a7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3079048
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXERCISE PASSING THROUGH ROMAN THIRTY FOUR LAST SEEK, I PASSED ALONG MERLE LYNCH'S STORY ABOUT A LETTER THAT REACHED HIM WHEN, AS A YOUNG THIRD-
TAGS: PGOV, ETEL, WB
To: LIVERPOOL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd1a7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014